Niam Agreement with USAID

1805. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether National Institute of Agriculture Marketing (NIAM) has signed an agreement with United States Agency of International Development (USAID); and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) An inter-Institutional Agreement has been signed between Choudhury Charan Singh National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (NIAM), Jaipur and United States Agency of International Development (USAID) in New Delhi on 11.7.2006 after consulting Ministry of External Affairs. This collaboration and cooperation between NIAM and USAID is to access relevant United States Government Agencies, Universities and related institutions in order to provide technical assistance to NIAM for capacity building and manpower development in training, research, consultancy and education.

Subjects for collaboration may include developing new and modifying existing agricultural commodity grades and standards, identifying and accessing U.S. training modules and resources available for grade and standards, including inspection and other areas such as certification/ accreditation, warehousing, cold storage, cold chain management and food safety, and enhancing the existing Marketing News Information System. Collaboration may lead to identification and pursuit of institutional linkages such as faculty exchanges, library support, documentary material developments support and short term training, video conferencing, support and collaboration from the Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (USDA/CSREES), National Agricultural Statistics Services (USDA/NASS) and other relevant agencies.

Priority areas for collaboration and assistance may include but are not limited to grades and standards development, market information systems and related Information Technology application development, certification/ accreditation, systems for enhancing farmers' participation in commodity future markets; price forecasting techniques; and enhancing competitiveness

for Indian agricultural commodities. NIAM, under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture and Co-operation and USAID for the United States Government intend to collaborate and cooperate under this agreement through the Joint Working Group. Each Party to this agreement will bear its own expenses for activities on which the Parties collaborate.

The duration of this agreement is for three years from the date of signature, subject to extension or early termination by the Parties upon 90 days written notice to the other Party.

Estimates of Production

1806. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated production of major agricultural commodities during the year 2006-07; and

(b) the actual production during the preceding year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTJLAL BHURIA): (a) Sowing activity for the crop year 2006-07 has just been in motion. The 1st advance estimates of production of major kharif crops for the year 2006-07 would emerge in September/October 2006.

(b) The production data of major agricultural commodities during the year 2005-06 as per the 4th advance estimates released on 15th July 2006 are given in the table below:

Production of major agricultural commodities during 2005-06 as per the 4th Advance Estimates

Crop	Production (Million Tonnes)	Crop	Production (Million Tonnes)
Rice	91.04	Total Foodgrains	208.30
Wheat	69.48	Groundnut	7.87
Jowar	7.97	Rapeseed & Mustard	7.89
Bajra	7.66	Soyabean	8.35
Maize	15.09	Total Oilseeds	27.73
Total Coarse Cereals	34.67	Cotton*	19.57

*Production in million bales of 170 kgs. each.